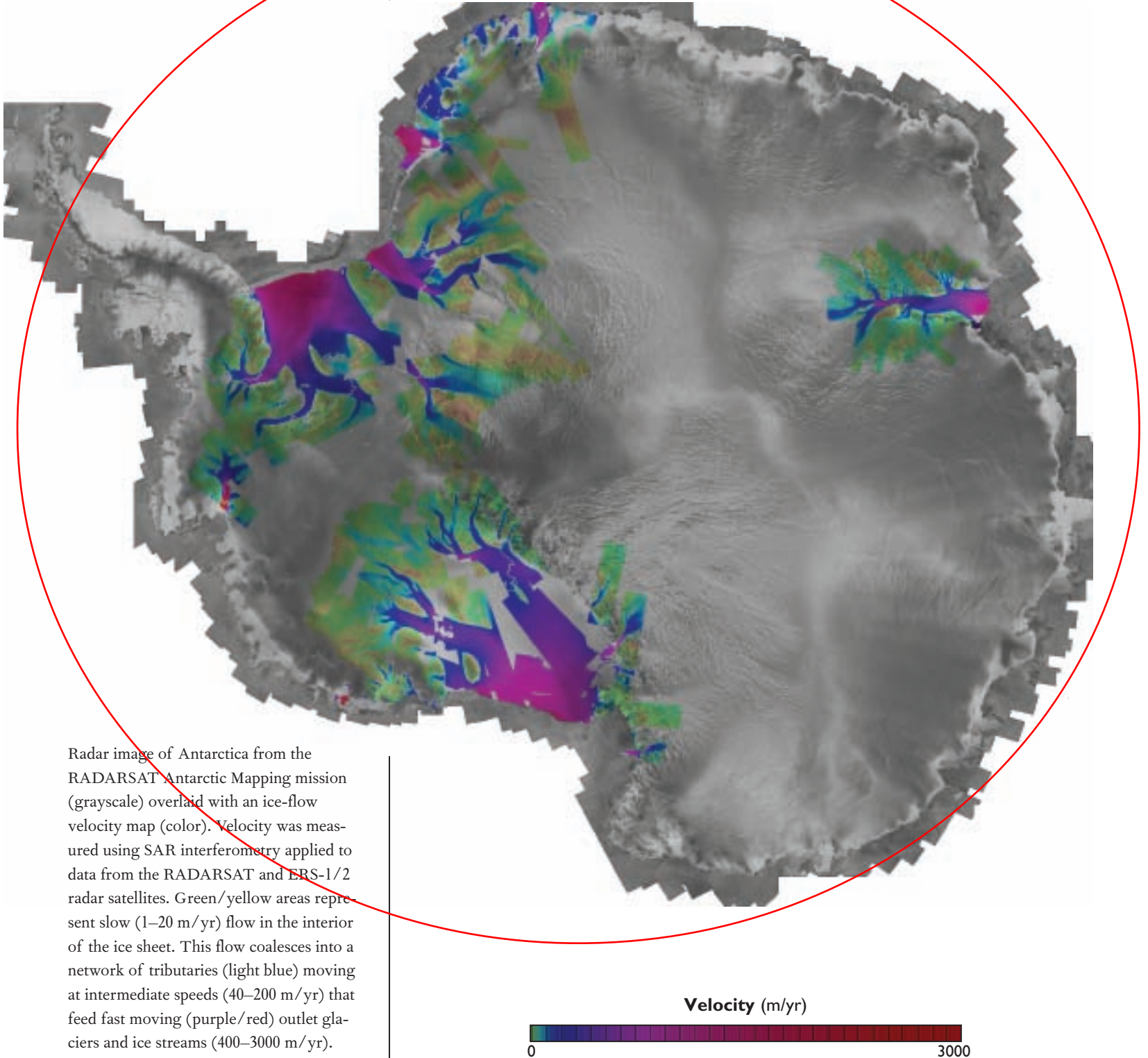




color, with red indicating movement of 1 km per year. Ice streams are revealed as sinuous, river-like features draining the ice sheet of most of its ice. The massive extent of these ice streams was surprising to many scientists and confirms that the Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets are dynamic and likely capable of changing their behavior within a relatively short space of time. The question is: is there any evidence for this?



Radar image of Antarctica from the RADARSAT Antarctic Mapping mission (grayscale) overlaid with an ice-flow velocity map (color). Velocity was measured using SAR interferometry applied to data from the RADARSAT and ERS-1/2 radar satellites. Green/yellow areas represent slow (1–20 m/yr) flow in the interior of the ice sheet. This flow coalesces into a network of tributaries (light blue) moving at intermediate speeds (40–200 m/yr) that feed fast moving (purple/red) outlet glaciers and ice streams (400–3000 m/yr). These fast moving glaciers discharge ice to the ocean where it melts or breaks off to form icebergs.